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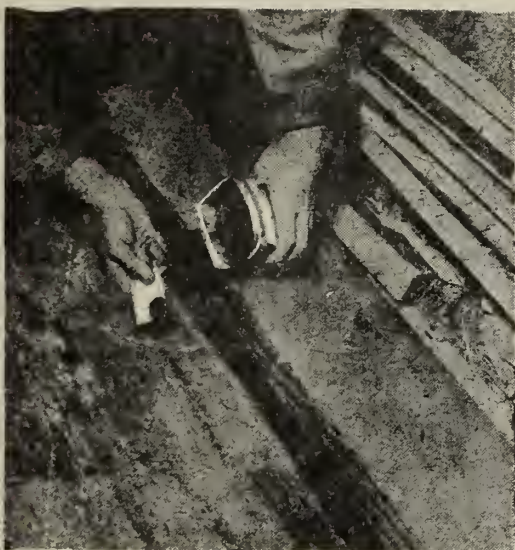
When Centre County, Pa., farmers put on a rat drive, they borrowed a meat grinder at a fish hatchery, used a concrete mixer to mix red squill and horse meat; put up the bait in 1, 2, and 4-pound ice cream cartons.



Why work for the Rats and Bugs?

They cost you 9 bushels of high-priced grain in every 100—here's what you can do about it.

By Vernon Vine



Photos: Geo. F. Johnson, Penn. State College

Fresh, moist baits—either meat or fish is best—kill the most rats. Make balls the size of marbles; put them where rats run or feed. The dead rats you find will be only about a fourth of those you kill—the rest return to their burrows, die there.

IF YOU'RE like most farmers you're working yourself silly feeding a bunch of rats and insects that never did anybody any good. You're giving these pests *nine bushels of grain out of every 100 you store*—four to the rats and five to the bugs.

Let's see first what you can do about rats.

Neighborhood or country-wide campaigns are one of the best ways to start—but remember, it's only a start. Centre County, Pa., for example, recently put on such a campaign. When arrangements were made to mix bait in a central place and to sell it at cost—50c a pound—orders for 4,000 pounds poured in from 1,000 farmers, 800 townsfolk.

With each order of bait (1 part red squill to 9 parts of ground horse meat) went these instructions:

"Place many small baits, the size of marbles, in rat runways, behind bags of feed, under floors, along walls, in corners, under crates and boxes, and other places where rats are seen."

What were the results? The average, per farm, was 30 to 50 dead rats *found*. Usually you find only a fourth of those that die. Thus the average kill was 120 to 200 rats per farm—possibly 200,000 for the county, not including town rats.

If each rat did \$5 annual damage—a conservative estimate—Centre County farmers saved \$1 million in a day.

Do you know how much rats are costing you? Here's a way to take your own rat census, says Iowa State College:

If you never see a rat, but see occasional signs of damage, you have 1 to 100.

If you see one now and then at night, you have 100 to 500.

If you see rats every night, and sometimes during the day, you have 500 to 1,000.

When you see lots of rats at night, and several during the day, you may have as many as 5,000.

How can you get rid of rats yourself, with or without a county campaign? Poison is the best way, and your best

Your County Agent can help you lick them!

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